

# The Daily Charge

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Telling the MND-Baghdad Story

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007



(Photo by Pfc. William Hatton, 7th MPAD)

## Super Bowl Monday!

Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division got a chance to take a small break from fighting and watch this year's Super Bowl at the division dining facility in the early morning hours Feb. 5 in Baghdad. Troops had to wake up early in order to catch the 2:30 a.m. kick-off, but for Colts fans it was worth it. See story page 3.

## Black Jack Soldiers, CBS sports kick off Baghdad Bowl

By Sgt. Robert Yde  
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERTIY, Iraq - With the Super Bowl still a day away, by Saturday afternoon the biggest game in Baghdad had been decided.

Dubbed the "Baghdad Bowl," two 15-man teams made up of Soldiers assigned to the 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division donned Indianapolis Colts and Chicago Bears jersey

and squared off in a flag-football game sponsored by CBS Sports Feb.3.

On hand to referee the game, which was played on "Black Jack Field" here, was CBS football analyst and three-time Super Bowl winner Randy Cross.

According to Cross, the idea of hosting a pre-Super Bowl game in Baghdad came to him after a six-day visit he made to Afghanistan last year.

"When I came back, I suggested (it) to the CBS people

because I knew we had the Super Bowl, we should do something in Baghdad," Cross explained. "I volunteered to come over here then and they approved it about a month-and-a half, two months ago."

CBS provided the game jerseys with a team of Soldiers based in the International Zone representing the Colts and a team of Soldiers based at FOB Falcon, located in southern Baghdad, representing the Bears.

Footage from the game was

aired during CBS' Super Bowl pre-game program.

Before beginning the game all the players gathered at mid-field where Cross performed the traditional coin toss with a coin specially minted in commemoration of the San Francisco 49ers Super Bowl XVI victory 25 years ago over the Cincinnati Bengals.

"I'm a fan, I've got to be honest," Cross, who won his three Super Bowl rings with the

See Game Page 4



(Photo by Sgt. Raymond Kokel, 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

## Celebrate

Capt. Adrian Spevak, commander, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Division assists a tribal sheik of Mushada cutting a ribbon at the grand opening of the new city council building in Mushada, Iraq Feb. 1. All of the city council members and sheiks were present for the event and the meeting afterward to discuss concerns and projects.

Arabic Phrase  
of the Day  
*majruuh*

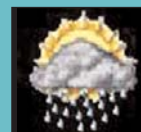
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## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 62  
Low: 47



Tomorrow

High: 61  
Low: 43



Thursday

High: 62  
Low: 42

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## Soldier enjoys Super Bowl XLI from combat zone

By Pfc. William Hatton  
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -In the dead hours of night, excitement and energy were flowing throughout a small chow hall here. Soldiers gathered in the room, anticipating one of the greatest games played all year. This game is a competition of brute force and sharp minds, known as the Super Bowl. As troops here watched and cheered until dawn, the Super Bowl would become a vivid memory, as the Indianapolis Colts took the Vince Lombardi Trophy as winners of Super Bowl XLI, 29-17.

For Staff Sgt. Kristopher Villarreal, a big Bears fan, from Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, watching this game was a necessity, something he looked forward to all season. Although Chicago lost, watching the game still meant a lot to this Bears fan.

The Super Bowl wasn't exactly the easiest to watch, said Villarreal, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas.

"My Soldiers and I all decided that we really wanted to watch the game, which meant we'd have to wake up real early," he said. The Super Bowl started at 2:30 a.m. in Baghdad.

After going to bed early, Villarreal and his comrades were ready for what would be an enjoyable game.

"I've been following the Bears all season," Villarreal said. "Most games were either played really early or repeated at a later time, but I tried to watch as many as I could."

Optimism was high for Villarreal leading up to the game, especially after making the decision to wake up and get somewhere to watch the game.

Throughout the year, the Bears have relied on a solid defense and great running game to get to the championship, Villarreal said.

"I like the Bears because of their defense," he said, prior to kick-off.

One of the reasons the Super Bowl was going to be great this year, Villarreal said, was because the match-up between the Colts and Chicago was a good one, a strong offense against a dominating defense.

"I seriously thought the Bears were going to stomp the Colts going into the ground," Villarreal said.

With so much excitement and confidence that the Bears were going to win, what happened during the game surprised Villarreal.

"It was great when Chicago ran the opening kickoff in for a touchdown," Villarreal said. "My friends and I called the touchdown after Chicago caught the ball."

The first half, fast-paced and filled with turnovers in the Miami rain, kept the Chicago fan on the edge of his seat.

One of Villarreal's biggest disappointment with the game was the decisions that Chicago made, he said.

"They could have made better choices," he added.

Although it would have been nice to see the game at home, with family and friends, Villarreal said it was still a good time enjoying the game with his fellow Soldiers 8,000 miles away.

It would have been better, he said, if the Bears won.

## Baghdad in Brief

### Patrol seizes murder suspects in Mahmudiyah

PATROL BASE MAH-MUHDIAH, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers seized an Iraqi man suspected of murder in Mahmudiyah, Iraq Feb 3.

A local witness reported the murder to a patrol from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment. The man gave a description of the vehicle and the three men allegedly involved.

The unit soon found a vehicle matching the description being towed by a repair truck. Inside the vehicle were three men. One possessed a 9mm pistol, a black ski mask and had dried blood on his hands.

The patrol detained the three men and turned them over to the Iraqi Army. The suspects are being held for questioning. The incident is under investigation.



(Photo by Pfc. William Hatton, 7th MPAD)

**Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division got a chance to take a small break from fighting and watch this year's Super Bowl at the division dining facility in the early morning hours Feb. 5 in Baghdad.**

# Black Jack Field hosts bowl game

## Game

From Page 1

49ers, joked before the toss.

After winning the coin toss, Team Falcon opted to begin the game on offense and drove down the field for the first score. However, their touchdown was quickly negated by Team IZ, who scored on their first play from scrimmage.

On their second play Team IZ pulled ahead and never looked back after a long touchdown pass put them up 14-7.

"I'm having a good time," Team IZ's, Capt. Craig Gary said at halftime. "This is an awesome opportunity for Soldiers."

For all the Soldiers involved, both the players and spectators, the game offered a much welcomed break from their daily combat missions.

"I think it's a really great thing," said Staff Sgt. Michael Rathbun, who is assigned to 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment and played for Team Falcon. "Many of us are living out on combat outposts, so it's the first time we've been on a FOB for a while."

During the game, t-shirts and hats provided by CBS were passed out to the crowd by Team Falcon cheerleaders, Spc. Erin Braun and Spc. Shaunette Buntain, both



**A Team IZ player makes a sideline grab during the Baghdad Bowl.**



(Photos by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

**Team Falcon makes a touchdown grab during the Baghdad Bowl. Team Falcon, representing the Bears, lost to Team IZ, wearing Colts jerseys, 35-25.**

medics with the 15th Brigade Support Battalion.

"We are the Falcon pride," Buntain said. "We got together and we figured this would boost the morale a little bit."

Not even the support of their cheerleaders, however, could help Team Falcon overcome Team IZ, who won handily, 32-25.

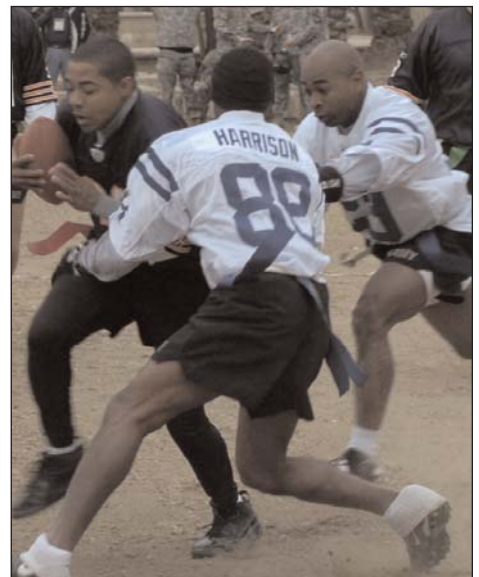
After the game, the players once again gathered at midfield, where Cross presented both team captains with a game ball. Another ball autographed by CBS' entire NFL Today crew, to include NFL greats Dan Marino, Boomer Esiason and Shannon Sharpe, was accepted by the Black Jack Brigade commander, Col. Bryan Roberts on behalf of the entire brigade.

"At the end of the day, we'll all leave here victorious because we're all members of the Black Jack team," Roberts told his Soldiers. "And we've got a heck of a lot of people out there depending on us to wake up tomorrow morning and get back out there into the fight."

According to Cross, the event was all about doing something for the Soldiers

who are out every day in the fight.

"It's not about us or CBS," Cross said, "It's about you guys and getting a chance to come out here and do this for you. We appreciate everything you guys do."



**Players from "Team IZ," try to stop a player from "Team Falcon" during the "Baghdad Bowl" Feb. 3**



# Paratrooper reunites with 9th grade teacher in Iraq

By Sgt. Mike Pryor  
2-82 Abn. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Do you ever wish you had a chance to say "Thank you" to that one special teacher who helped you make it through school, the one who believed in you and pushed you to succeed?

1st Lt. Kenneth Fowler got that chance recently, but it happened in a very unexpected place, here in a combat zone.

Fowler, Executive Officer for Company G, 407th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, was reunited with his 9th Grade history teacher, Maj. Sally Petty, Operations Officer for the Virgin Islands Army National Guard's 786th Quarter Master Battalion, when his unit arrived at Camp Taji in January.

"Of all the FOBs in Iraq, I never expected to end up on the one where my high school history teacher works," Fowler said.

The reunion was sweet for both.

"He's like my third son. It's a joy to see him," Petty said.

When Fowler first met Petty, it was 1996 and he was a new student at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Maj. Petty was "Miss Petty," his history teacher and one of the toughest disciplinarians at the school.

"If you were 15 seconds late for class,



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

**1st Lt. Kenneth Fowler (left) and Maj. Sally Petty share some memories while looking at a poster of their hometown, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. They were reunited in Iraq more than a decade after they first met - when Petty was Fowler's 9th grade history teacher.**

she'd make you do push-ups," Fowler said.

Once class started, Petty had tough expectations for her students. She insisted they learn the capitals of every U.S. state and most countries in the world. Fowler, who had come from a relatively relaxed school in the states, was in shock at first.

"I looked at my friend and said, 'Is this

lady crazy?'" People were having nervous breakdowns," he said.

But Petty was hard on her students for a reason, she said - she wanted them to succeed.

"The world is very competitive, and if you're not competitive you're just going to end up as a statistic," Petty said.

"I used to tell them, 'When you go out into the world, it's going to be twice as hard as what I'm doing to you,'" she said.

But as tough as Petty was, she also showed her students that she cared about them, Fowler said. She came to all his football games to cheer him on, and she would even give him a ride to school sometimes when he missed the bus.

"She was the only teacher who ever stopped and picked me up," he said.

Petty was also something of a one-woman Army recruiting station. She was a captain in the National Guard at the time, and often encouraged her students to join the military. "I always told my students, 'Go Army! Go Army! Stay in for 20 years and make a career out of it,'" she said.

Many of her students followed her advice. Petty said she has over a hundred former students who are now on active duty in the military, including four in her battalion alone.

When Fowler decided to join the Army, he found that "Miss Petty" had prepared him well for the discipline and structure of military life.

## TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
<b>AFN   sports</b>	NFL Live	College Gamenight	NFL Sounds of the Game	ESPNNews	The Sports List	The Hot List	
<b>AFN   prime ATLANTIC</b>	Headline News	ATS/Regional News	Heroes	American Dad	War at Home	Supernatural	
<b>AFN   news</b>	MSNBC Live	MSNBC Live	Fox News Live	Studio B			